Present status of Hawk aircraft purchase

†1800. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the deal for purchasing 60 Hawk training planes from Britain;

(b) whether Government have also discussed with the concerned company about uninterrupted supply of spare parts of the plane and its manufacture in the country itself;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether this plane meets the requirements of the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Commercial negotiations for acquisition of Hawk aircraft are continuing.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Defence has discussed the issues of product support and indigenous manufacture with the vendor and a Joint Technical Project Report has been prepared.

(d) After due evaluation, the Hawk aircraft has been found suitable for our requirements.

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†Origjnal notice of the Question was received in Hindi.